

## History Knowledge organiser- Slavery

### Key Words

**Slave**- someone who is the property of someone else and is normally forced to do unpaid labour

**Manacles**- a device for confining the hands or feet. They were 2 metal rings joined by a metal chain.

**Trade triangle/ triangular trade**- the term used for the 3 part route in the slave trade

**Middle Passage**- the part of the triangular trade where slaves were taken by ship from Africa to the America

**Plantation**- a large farm estate that grew crops such as cotton, tea and sugar.

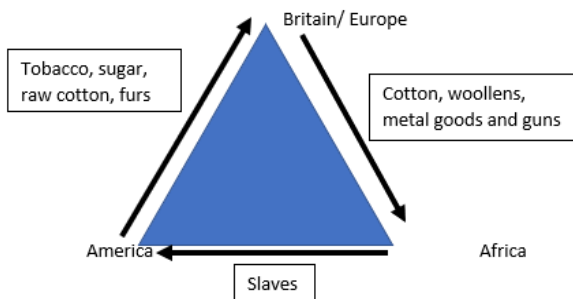
**Underground railroad**- a secret network of people and safe houses organised to help slaves escape to freedom.

### Background

- Slavery began around 11,000 years ago.
- Slaves were almost always of a different ethnic group, race, religion, or political unit than their owners.
- The earliest slaves were probably war captives, although some people worked as slaves to pay off debts.
- Slave labour was needed for building projects, agriculture and mining, as well as for farm and housework.

### Trade Triangle

Goods were taken to Africa and exchanged for slaves. Slaves were loaded onto the ship and taken to the Americas and sold. The money was used to buy goods which were taken back by ship to Europe.



### Slave life

#### 1. Capture

Slaves were captured in Africa by white slave traders. They were helped by other African tribes and received payment in goods such as guns. Captured slaves were chained up and often kept in a cage before being loaded onto a ship

#### 2. Middle Passage

Slaves were loaded onto a ship and kept like cargo. Slaves were fed and exercised because the slave traders needed to keep them alive to sell. Some slaves rebelled on ships and attacked or killed the ship's crew. Many slaves died on the journey due to disease, the cold or by throwing themselves overboard.

#### 3. Auction

After arriving in America slaves were prepared for auction- wounds would be covered up with tar and a bung was used to cover up dysentery. Plantation owners bid for slaves who then became their property. Families were separated.

#### 4. Life on the Plantation

Slaves worked for their masters- most worked on the plantations, such as in cotton fields. Some worked in the houses of their slave masters. They were housed and fed. Treatment varied for slaves. Slaves who did not do as they were told or who tried to run away were punished harshly.

### The Underground railroad

- The Underground railroad was a series of safe houses and people that helped slaves to escape
- The people who helped **slaves** escape were called **conductors** or **engineers**.
- Places along the escape route were called **stations**.
- Escaping slaves were called passengers or cargo.

### Methods of slave resistance

- Poisoning the masters
- Running away
- Arson –setting fire to the slave owner's house
- Rebelling
- Working slowly/ did as little work as possible
- Injuring plantation animals
- Pretending to be mad.
- Some urinated in the food (or worse).
- Broke tools
- Intentionally destroyed crops
- Helped others to escape
- Bought themselves out of slavery
- Secretly supported runaways

### Slave songs

- White people tried to **de-Africanize** the captive black workforce.
- Slaves were forbidden to speak their native languages, to play drums, or practice their mostly own religions.
- They were urged and often forced to become Christians by slave masters.
- Songs were a way of preserving their African culture and heritage. It helped to keep their spirits up during terrible times. Singing was a way to express themselves
- Often slaves put 'coded' messages into their songs.

### The end of slavery

Slavery came to an end in America after the Civil War in 1865. BUT this was not the end of the story. Black people may have been free- but those that had been slaves did not own anything and still often had to work for their previous owners.